TL 2259

Memo

To: ACET and All Timorese groups in Australia. European groups.

From: Jose Ramos-Horta

Date: 28 October 1985

1. First, my apologies for this late memo. The last few weeks have been extremely hectic. The 40th Anniversary of the U.N. attracted an unprecedented number of Heads of State, PMs, Foreign Ministers, Kings and Princes. I used the occasion to greet as many dignitaries as possible, even if just to utter a few words... In the process, I lost count of the number of VIPs I shook hands with. Distributed one or two page info. TAPOL's latest bulletin was most useful. I used the map of military activities to brief delegates. It is most useful since it enables a person to have a good view of the situation in just a couple of minutes.

2. Though the Timor issue was not included in the agenda of the 40th session, quite a number of delegations referred to the problem in their speeches.

3. Most significant was President Eanes' speech. The significance of his statement was that he emphasized Timor even though there had been a formal recommendation by the U.N. Secretariat that speakers refrain from talking about controvertial topics. (See Eanes' statement on Timor in Annex).

4. I met with Eanes briefly the morning he spoke and chatted with him again the next day. During our conversation, Eanes reaffirmed his country's firm stand on self-determination for the East Timorese. He stressed however that our meeting was one of dialogue - and not as part of the negotiations now under way.

5. I met also with Presidents Nino Vieira (Guinea-Bissau), Jose Eduardo dos Santos (Angola), Aristides Pereira (Cape Verde) and Machel (Mozambique). These were essentially courtesy calls. However, I touched with them the need for FRETILIN with the Five to begin a campaign with a view to the next NAM Summit in Harare. To that end, it is important that the Five Heads of State formally request to the host country (Zimbabwe) that the Timor question be placed in the agenda of the Summit. They all agreed to do this. DFSE's efforts will concentrate now on NAM. We shall discuss further this issue during the annual meeting of the Five to be held early next year in Luanda.

6. For the first time ever, I met with the PNG Foreign Minister. Though he seemed rather sympathetic, he was also non-committal. He told me he will be visiting East Timor sometime next year. PNG Ambassador to the UN Lohia has been more forthcoming, suggesting that if there is a vote in the U.N. PNG should at least abstain instead of voting with Indonesia.

7. I met also at lenght with PM Lini of Vanuatu. With him I discussed the need for a more visible FRETILIN presence in SP. I asked the PM to intervene with the Government of the Solomon Islands on our behalf. He promised to continue to take up the Timor question with other SP countries.

8. I have spent a lot of time talking with LA delegations (Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, etc.), Scandinavia (all five members of the group) and Africa.

9. A word on the NAM meeting in Luanda. Contrary to my first imformation, the Timor question was not, I repeat, was not deleted from the Final Declaration. Since there was reference to Timor in the draft Declaration, there had to be a consensus requesting its deletion. Since there was no consensus, even though there were more countries speaking for Indonesia than for East Timor, the reference to Timor was maintained. There was a note in the Annex explaining precisely this, with the suggestion that the question be discussed by NAM Heads of State and Government. Jill Jolliffe´s piece in FEER was faulty. All observers present in Luanda were unanimous in concluding that FRETILIN won a major victory since the Timor question occupied more time than the question of Palestine. I think we created the momentum for NAM Summit in Harare.

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